



G-5's "Eye on AMC" U.S. Army Materiel Command

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M7 pedestal fulfills need for increased convoy protection

The U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command - Rock Island, Ill. is fulfilling a critical need for increased and improved offensive convoy protection with the new M7 pedestal.

The M7 pedestal allows Soldiers to mount the M249, M240B, and M2 machine guns and the M19 grenade automatic launcher in the open cargo bed of the M998 Cargo HMMWV.

The M998 HMMWV is one of the most common convoy vehicles, and troops in Iraq have been modifying its existing M6 machine gun pedestal. Soldiers moved the pedestal from its position in front of the HMMWV cargo bed to the rear position between the wheel wells.

This gave Soldiers a 360 degree range of fire instead of the 180 degree range when the pedestal is mounted in the front, but it also created safety and structural issues. To address these issues, the M6 needed to be redesigned to better meet the requirement. The result of these modifications evolved into the M7 pedestal.

The improved pedestal now extends the full width of the HMMWV aluminum armor plate that has alternate pedestal mounting locations and standard attaching points. It has a vastly ruggedized column support configuration to reduce potential tripping hazard, and strengthen support braces. There is also a depression stop which ensures safe zones of fire when aiming forward and prevents shooting into the cab area.

"We're very happy with the new M7 pedestal," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert J. Dixon, TACOM Material Fielding and Training Directorate, who has used both the M6 and M7 pedestals. "We now have more mobility and more freedom. We stay more focused on the mission."

New Picatinny firing range laboratory nears completion

Over the past few months, workers have been busy at Picatinny Arsenal preparing a new 25-yard indoor live-fire pistol and shotgun range, a test bed for testing the latest technologies in small arms.

"This range will establish the state's definitive position with respect to firing-range technologies and has the strong backing of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection," said Robert Mueller, NJDEP Office of Innovative Technology and Market Development and ITRC national co-chairman.

Picatinny's new small arms range is specifically designed to be a live-fire laboratory test-bed enabling the pilot-scale study of innovative technologies aimed at improving the human health, safety and environmental impacts of both indoor and outdoor live-fire gun ranges. The indoor range laboratory operates as a base platform consisting of concrete walls and floor with an adjustable steel plate that holds the impact media.

The range is part of the Army's on-going RangeSafe program managed by the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center's Environmental Technology Division. The RangeSafe Technology Demonstration Initiative program has successfully conducted a number of firing range related technology demonstrations throughout the United States over the past several years.

The need for a gun-range technology test bed is confirmed by scientists from the Army Corps of Engineers Engineering Research and Development Center Environmental Laboratory in Vicksburg, Miss. ERDC is a nationally recognized center for environmental research and a partner of the RangeSafe program.

"This new capability will serve as an invaluable tool to help the army maintain continued access to vital training infrastructure, thereby ensuring the readiness of our Warfighters," said James Frankovic, Environmental Technology Division Competence Manager.